



Beth Israel Bulletin

KISLEV-TEVET 5784/DECEMBER 2023



Upcoming Events: **DECEMBER**

Special Event

HANUKKAH CELEBRATION

12/08 at 5:30 PM

Shabbat Services

- **12/01, 6PM:** Shabbat T'filah
- **12/08, 5:30PM:** Hanukkah Celebration
- **12/16, 10AM:** Shabbat T'filah
- **12/22, 7PM:** Shabbat T'filah
- **12/29, 7PM:** Shabbat T'filah

[View Full Calendar](#)

[Join Via Zoom](#)

From the Rabbi

Happy December Temple Beth Israel,

As we settle into winter, I'd like to concentrate on the concept of community more than I usually focus on, during this beautiful yet difficult season. For many of you who haven't stayed through a North Country winter in quite some time, the long grueling winters, even with climate change, can seem to last forever, or at least that was my experience during my first winter. The bitter frigid temperatures add insult to injury when all our friends have gone into hibernation or migrated down south for warmer latitudes. With many folks high-tailing it out of town when the calendar turns to December, the cold weather months can often seem lonely and isolating. Area restaurants close up shop or reduce their hours, and there are less opportunities to gather and celebrate life.

Yes, we have the "holidays" and the non-Jewish holidays always seem to uplift everyone's spirits. Christmas can be such a joyous occasion; a moment frozen in time when folks seem to suspend all grievances and offer a loving hand of peace and compassion. Yet, it isn't our holiday, and it too arrives with an odd array of emotions for many Jewish folks. While we might be invited to a Christmas dinner and completely and totally love our non-Jewish friends and family, for those of us who don't identify as Christian, there is another painful reality that our holidays aren't celebrated by a majority of Americans, nor are they really understood well by non-Jews. Chanukkah is not Jewish Christmas; it's not even close. Christmas is a fundamental Christian holiday, predominately rooted in belief; Jesus, the Christian Messiah's birth. Chanukkah, like many but not all Jewish holidays, is grounded in history and tradition, yet enshrined in a decent amount of belief. Chanukkah is a minor non-Biblical holiday that commemorates the Jewish military victory over the Hellenistic Jews. In fact, it was more of a civil war between traditional Jews and Greek Jews who embraced paganism. The oil lasting 8 days is a matter of faith. I was always curious as to when and by whom was it decided to make Chanukkah into a major Jewish holiday?? However significant or over-hyped Chanukkah may be, the holiday has clearly taken center stage in the Jewish holiday hierarchy over the last 75 years or so. As is often the case in Jewish texts and celebrations, what's old is new again, and Chanukkah raises questions about Jewish identity, assimilation, conversion out of our faith, the necessity for Jewish observation, and Zionism.

What will this year's Chanukkah celebration bring with the Jewish world seemingly under attack? Will our local SUNY student body pause their chanting "From the river to the sea," long enough to join their fellow Jewish students in our community wide menorah lighting held on Thurs, Dec. 7th in Trinity Park? Where will all of our "Never again," allies from all the various social justice movements, which Jews have generously supported over the years, be on the first night of Chanukkah? It remains to be seen, but I know where the Jews will be on that night.

This is why the Jewish community and all the efforts and energy associated with creating Jewish community are so important to our people during these difficult times. What our Jewish community offers is a warm, loving, safe space, where we can turn to one-another for a sense of security and franklv. sanitv. We are strong and resilient. We have overcome the lonely isolation from years of covid.

and this war too will eventually end, but I strongly encourage in-person events this winter, whenever weather and geography allow. When we are present, ideally in person but even online, we are able to learn together, laugh with one another, mourn our losses communally, and share our simchas. Please, continue to check-in on your friends during the next few months. As always, feel free to slip into a Shabbat service or tune-into our zoom experience (fingers crossed) on the road. "Never again," means today, but we must continue to build and shape the most reliable support group we have-the Temple Beth Israel community!

Chodesh Tov and Chag Chanukkah Samaech/Happy Chanukkah,
Rabbi David Joslin- rabbi@plattsburghtbi.org

Notes from the President

As 2023 comes to an end, we reflect on all we have endured, overcome, celebrated, mourned and gained over the past twelve months, individually and as a community. As I've said before, it's been a full year with much to process.

Take a moment to read the following quote from Michael Josephson, founder of the Joseph & Edna Josephson Institute of Ethics and Character Counts, and decide what it means to you.

**“Approach the New Year with the resolve to find the opportunities hidden in each new day.”
Every single day is a gift and a privilege, not to be taken for granted.**

So here is my unsolicited list of suggestions and thoughts, based on life experience, self-help books, Instagram, memes and personal intuition, on how to find the hidden opportunities, in each new day.

Call your parents every day, simply to check in. Tell your children you love them. Make sure your children know you are proud of them and encourage them to be proud of themselves for all their small and large achievements. Touch your aging loved ones, often. Do the hard things first. Smile and laugh. Offer to help and actually follow through. Donate your time, talent and treasure — as much as you can. Come to “family” shabbat even if you don't have children (because it's highly entertaining). Take deep cleansing breaths — everyone has forgotten how to breathe. Remember the importance of sleep and exercise. Meditate and pray. Find gratitude. Let anger go; it only affects you. Surround yourself with family and people who build you up. Wash your hands.

I came across this and thought I would share these words of wisdom.

Eight Opportunities for Lightening our World

May this holiday season of light remind us to pause, to give thanks for the lights that shine in our lives, and to inspire us to extend that light to all the world.

1st night: What is something that I can do to act with more kindness?

2nd night: How can I shine my unique lights to help others?

3rd night: What can I do to help bring justice to the world?

4th night: What do I want to give thanks to, and what challenges do I want to give voice to?

5th night: Give tzedakah to an organization that brings light to others/well-being of the world. Talk about your choice.

6th night: What gifts do I bring to the world that I would like to acknowledge?

7th night: What is a non-material gift that someone gave you this year that has helped guide you? What have you given to someone else?

8th night: What is your favorite Chanukah memory?

Wishing you all a Happy Chanukkah, Hanukkah, Chanukah (take your pick), and a delightful, healthy and safe new year. Be well and thank you for being part of our Temple Beth Israel family.

Love, light and latkes,

Cheryl Kabeli, President

LATKE COOKING TIP #323

If at first you don't succeed, fry, fry again!

THE PRESIDENT CAN BE CONTACTED AT tbipresident1@gmail.com

Come Celebrate
HANUKKAH

With your TBI  Family! 

  

**FRIDAY,
DECEMBER 8 AT
5:30PM**

Bring your Hanukkah from home so we can light them together. Bring homemade latkes for your table (or to share) And a salad to share on our potluck table. The Temple will provide sour cream, apple sauce, Sufganyiot and hot chocolate!



Rabin Religious School is currently asking for loose change (or dollars) to fill our water jug to give to the Interfaith Food Shelf. Our jug is decorated with artwork from the students. Please help Talia, Noa, Lucy and Adiana reach their goal of a full jug!

The Michelle and Lenny Zelkowitz Challenge

A huge shoutout to everyone who donated to this Challenge. Thank you to all for your support. A heartfelt THANK YOU to MICHELLE AND LENNY ZELKOWITZ for this great opportunity!!



Yahrzeits

It is customary to honor the anniversary of the death of a loved one by lighting a memorial candle, reciting Kaddish at a congregational service and making a donation. We hope you will do all. A donation can be made to the [Temple Beth Israel Fund of your choice.](#)

DECEMBER 1

Lillian B. Garrell
Henry Schapiro
Scott Norman Woolman
Miriam Balkan
Ann Dworski Flynn
Bertha Schneyer
Muriel Ginsberg
Ethel Cohen
Lulu Schapiro
George E. Kier
Phillip Zelkowitz
Lena Feldman Dweck
Abraham Wolfe

DECEMBER 8

Carter Thompson
Mary Adler
Minnie Cohen
Alex J. Davis
Harry Block
Albert Dunn
Robert C. Angley
Zysla Krongold
Samuel Lavine
Harry Lipshutz
Melvin Lowe
Anna Spielberg
Max Hopengarten
Charles B. Good
Sanford Newman
Johnathan Matzkin
Steven D. Weinstein

DECEMBER 16

Max Lichtig
Aaron Joseph Schiff
George Goldstein
Sarah Gordon
Sophia B. Dweck
Jane Godfrey
Morris Goldstein
Isaac Goodrich
Marcus Miller
Jane Godfrey
Lee Potasinska

DECEMBER 22

Jay M Gordon, Jr.
Florence Kaufman
Estelle Gordon
Sarah Steinberg
Marie D. Hiller
Sarah Kemper Markstone
Sylvia B. Anderson
Ralph Kriff
Henrietta Fishman
Elizabeth Caplan Klepper
Morris Werner
David Hilowitz
Birdie Winkler
Abraham M. Ehrlich
Harry Taylor
Sadie Rome Shubert
Louis Wolfe
Ruth Feinberg Bergman
Abraham S. Caplan
Jerry Golt
Max M. Tisser

LOOKING FOR CHARITABLE DONATIONS FOR YOUR INCOME TAX

LOOK NO FURTHER

Your generosity allows the Temple to continue to meet our mission of inspiring lives and transforming our world. We all continue to navigate the challenges of difficult times, and despite these, we have experienced continued and even increased generosity from our members to support our beloved synagogue community. Thank you so much! The

Temple is exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Therefore, your gifts are tax-deductible to the full extent provided by law.

You should consult your financial planner or tax adviser to determine the exact tax advantages of any gift you are considering. We provide an annual donation statement for all tax-deductible donations.

[Make a Donation](#)

 **Take a Moment & Make a Difference**

It is easy to honor or remember friends and family with a contribution to any Temple Fund.
No donation is too small.

We Gratefully Acknowledge Gifts to Our Temple Funds

GENERAL FUND

- Janet Fine and Laurence Haroon in honor of our sister Diane Fine's birthday
- ElizaBeth Brumfield and Tom Dufore on behalf of the Zelkowitz Challenge
- Carol Klepper on behalf of the Zelkowitz Challenge
- Phyllis Freedman on behalf of the Zelkowitz Challenge
- TBI Men's Group on behalf of the Zelkowitz Challenge
- Gayle Ratner in memory of Alice Ratner
- Jack Helfgott in memory of Martin and Judith Helfgott
- Carole Slatkin in honor of Laura Slatkin
- Randy Davis on behalf of the Zelkowitz Challenge
- Rabbi Joslin on behalf of the Zelkowitz Challenge
- Beth Nolland on behalf of the Zelkowitz Challenge
- Sharon Schenkel on behalf of the Zelkowitz Challenge
- Miriam and Tom Worthington on behalf of the Zelkowitz Challenge
- Sarah Davis for the Zelkowitz Challenge- Henry and Albert Davis in honor of Grandma and Papa Davis
- Gayle Ratner in memory of my Grandmother, Henrietta Greenfield
- Marilyn and Roger Lorberbaum on behalf of the Zelkowitz Challenge
- Jesse Marx on behalf of the Zelkowitz Challenge
- Dr. Wayne Anderson on behalf of the Zelkowitz Challenge
- Stephen Cahill on behalf of the Zelkowitz Challenge
- Susan Albert on behalf of the Zelkowitz Challenge
- Lillian Resnick on behalf of the Zelkowitz Challenge
- Sharon Ratner on behalf of the Zelkowitz Challenge
- Andrew Kaplan on behalf of the Zelkowitz Challenge
- Maria Foster on behalf of the Zelkowitz Challenge
- Janet and Jerry Davis on behalf of the Zelkowitz Challenge
- Irene and Jeffrey Gretz on behalf of the Zelkowitz Challenge

Martin Goldman Fund

- Sue Meyerson, Alan and Mark Goldman and Families in memory of Ann Rednor and Martin Goldman
-

A little something from the Yenta...

-**Baruchim Abiam to Joshua & Ann Haberkorn-Halm** & family of Canton on joining our Temple Beth Israel family.

-Mazel Tov to **Keith Taylor** on completing his conversion to Judaism. It's a thrilling time for **Lucy and Keith**. A huge thank you to **Rabbi David** for supporting this dream.

-**Sarah & Rodney Brown** are enjoying their time in Florida and recently went on a cruise to the southern Caribbean.

-**Sharon Schenkel** is busier than ever producing her fabulous Zentangle art creations. They are very lovely and meaningful. Check her art out on Facebook.

-**Stan Haas** is up and about in the community. He's recovering nicely from his recent Cardiac surgery. He says he feels so good that he's wondering if they really did anything!

-**Jim Godfrey** is recovering from recent Cardiac surgery.

-We had a wonderful, eye pleasing presentation recently at the Temple. It was an illustrated lecture on the Murals in the Wooden Synagogues of Eastern Europe by Art historian, **Dr. Karen Blough**. **Diane Fine** coordinated this event and those in attendance were very appreciative. A light reception of muffins and apple cider donuts was arranged by **Jerry & Janet Davis**.

-**Judy Weisman** and partner **Nadia Margolis** traveled to Hungary for a special 50 anniversary celebration. They enjoyed many sights, especially Budapest.

The **Oberman/Soroka's** spent a month in Spain. They weren't alone as family members joined them at different times. Back now, we're looking forward to hearing about the trip.

-**Max Grafstein** has made it to the New York State Championships in track. We're looking forward to hearing how he ended his season!

-**Sophie Kabeli** had a great season in swimming, breaking the times of some of her personal bests.

-**Beth Brumfield** spent her special birthday celebration in her new hometown. We all wish her many more healthy years!

-We send sympathetic thoughts to **Ronnie Marx** on the passing over the Rainbow Bridge of **Peggy**, his faithful and constant companion.

-James Jolley is lending his extensive knowledge of the philosophers being studied in our Tuesday Temple Study of Philosophers.

Please send your news to the office attn: Yenta. Stay healthy and warm...

♥ **Templegrams: DECEMBER-FEBRUARY**

DECEMBER

2 Ann Ruzow
Holland
4 Michelle Davis
11 Doug Chaves
11 Natalie
Mercaldi
14 Alice Marx
15 Sarah Davis
16 Ilana Rubin
18 Beth Nolland
21 Ben Grafstein
30 Micki Smith

JANUARY 2024

2 Irving Weisman
5 Liz Newton
9 Lily Sarnow
13 Rabbi D.
Kominsky
20 Bob Adler
26 Andrew Lack
27 Gabriel
Malseptic
28 Max Grafstein
28 Lucy Shutts

FEBRUARY

1 Sophi Kabeli
10 Eva Schweber
12 Susan Cao-Ba
Patnode
12 Jonathan
Merrihew
17 Sarah Brown
17 Ravina Seigler
17 Ronnie Marx
21 Aaron Davis
21 Hal Rubin
23 Miriam
Worthington
26 Jeff Gretz
26 Justin Portugal
26 Samantha
Worthington

You can send a greeting to anyone on this list for only \$.50 per name.

Send your list of names and a check made out to Temple Beth Israel to Carol Staves, 26 Tom Miller Road, Plattsburgh, NY 12901. Please be sure to indicate how you would like the card signed.



Thank you to all those who donated reusable tote bags for use by Plattsburgh Cares. TBI collected more than 100 bags and they went to good use! (We are good for a while now.)



Spring Rummage Sale
Date TBD for May 2024

There's plenty of notice to sort out and get rid of stuff during the long cold winters up here in the North Country!

We're looking for the following that sells best and would appreciate:

- **Household items** – most items in and around the home in decent, clean condition, like:
 - **Housewares** – dishes, knickknacks, blankets, sheets, etc.
 - **Toys and games**
 - **Sporting goods, outdoor items**
 - **Artwork**
 - **Small furniture, flat screen TV. etc**

What we **cannot** accept* for donation (because it doesn't sell):

- **Major appliances**
- **Old tv's, computers and other electronic equipment**
- **Clothing, mattresses, etc**
- **Books**

(*These items can be donated to the appropriate charitable places)

If you have any questions please contact:

Marcy Weisburgh, Chairperson

Email: mweisburgh@frontier.com

Text (518) 534-0118

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